

NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

11 February 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: OSA/TAES

SUBJECT : Possible Higher Performance  
Reconnaissance System

1. Only one of the reports you furnished me contained a concept for a system having higher performance characteristics than our present OX. It is the Aerojet-General proposal for a boost-glide vehicle system. All of these reports were done in 1959 and it is conceivable that the state of the art has progressed since that period. Dr. Scoville and I both believe that we should take a look at the 100-200 thousand foot regime in either a manned or unmanned system. We should weigh the advantages and disadvantages of various aspects of this flight regime and where the primary requirement is (a) a high resolution photography, (b) very low radar cross section, (c) invulnerability to air defense missile installations, (d) no or minimum fueling required, (e) reasonably rapid reaction time without an inordinate cost involved.

2. Our budget contains sufficient funds to finance such studies. In fact, one should do two or three simultaneously. As we discussed previously, the drone may be a possible answer to this particular problem and perhaps one of the studies should attempt to capitalize on that particular development and provide in some manner the range and flight regime desired.

3. It is therefore requested that you analyze the above requirements and prepare recommendations to Dr. Scoville of appropriate studies.

Original signed by  
E. B. Giller

EDWARD B. GILLER  
Assistant Deputy Director  
(Research)

Attachment  
Aerojet-General Corp. Report  
No. 1720 (Special), dated Dec. '59

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